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Carter's Case on Cuba Not Proved, Foreign Relations Chairman Says

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WASHINGTON, June 9 — Chairman John J. Sparkman and other members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said today that the Carter Administration had failed to produce conclusive evidence to support its charges that Cuba was deeply involved in the training and equipping of rebels who invaded Zaire from Angola last month.

After a three-hour briefing from Admiral Stansfield Turner, the Director of Central Intelligence, Senator Sparkman of Alabama said the evidence was "circumstantial and the weight of it substantial, but by no means conclusive." Senators George McGovern of South Dakota, Dick Clark of Iowa and Frank Church of Idaho, all Democrats, also registered varying degrees of skepticism about the evidence and all said the intelligence was inconclusive.

Mr. Sparkman said that as a result of the inconclusive nature of the evidence, the committee would "pursue this matter" further with the Central Intelligence Agency and with the Senate Intelligence Committee. He said that in addition, the committee had instructed its staff "to undertake an in-depth review of United States policy toward Africa and related areas."

The result was a setback for the Administration's effort to back up President Carter's charge on May 25 that Cuba shared "responsibility" for the Katangan attack.

The only member of the committee who voiced satisfaction with the presentation was Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, who told reporters that the President's charges were "by no means without substance."

Javits finds "substance" in Charge. "I am convinced that there is substance to the President's charges," Senator Javits said.

He also said that he favored American supply and support for "an all-African force" proposed by the French to bolster other regimes in Africa besides Zaire—a proposal not accepted by the United States.

Admiral Turner spent much of this week on Capitol Hill briefing leaders and committees about the intelligence information. Until today, the reaction had been generally supportive.

Yesterday, for instance, Representative Clement J. Zablocki of Wisconsin, Chairman of the House International Relations

Committee, said after a similar briefing, "I was impressed favorably." And Representative Edward P. Boland of Massachusetts, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said Monday that he was "satisfied" that Mr. Carter was correct in blaming the Cubans.

But liberals on the Foreign Relations Committee, asserting that they were concerned about what they regarded as overreaction by the Administration to Cuban and Soviet activity in Africa, were reluctant to endorse Admiral Turner's conclusions.

The Administration apparently irritated some members of the Foreign Relations Committee by briefing others on Capitol Hill first and by refusing to give the committee documentary evidence. All material was turned over to the Senate Intelligence Committee instead.

McGovern Sees Documents

Senator Sparkman said he had not seen the documents, but Senator McGovern said he had gone to the Senate Intelligence Committee and had read all available material. He said that as a result of seeing that evidence and hearing Admiral Turner, it was apparent that "they do not have overwhelming hard evidence of a major Cuban operation, either in the training or equipping of Katangan rebels and the Cubans stoutly deny they prepared them for this incursion."

Asked whether the sources for the Central Intelligence Agency's case were reliable, Mr. McGovern said, "I regard the sources as doubtful."

"I'm not rejecting them or accepting them," he said. "I think they're the kind of sources that if a group of people was asked to look at you'd get a divided jury."

Senators McGovern and Clark said they saw no hard information to justify the Administration's allegations. Rather, the information was said to consist of many reports of conversations with prisoners, Africans and other sources. Mr. Clark said the committee had received no photographs or tapes.

Cuba Denied Involvement

Cuba has denied any involvement with the Katangans in the last two years, and Representative Stephen J. Solarz, Democrat of Brooklyn, a member of the International Relations Committee, said he was flying to Cuba at President Fidel Castro's invitation to discuss overall Cuban policy in Africa with him.

Admiral Turner, when told of Senator McGovern's statement, said, "Intelligence is not court-procedure evidence."

"Intelligence is the job of bringing little pieces of evidence, clues from disparate sources, together to piece into one picture," he said. "It's an entirely different operation from going to court and having to have evidence that is irrefutable in a court of law."

"We have many, many pieces of evidence here," the admiral said, adding that

"the cumulative effect is persuasive."

"I say that the Cubans had to bear responsibility for the invasion, taking place," he said. "I would say that the Cubans are, such a pervasive colonial presence in Angola that it is unlikely that anything of this nature could take place in that country today, which is so dominated by the Cubans," without Cuban backing.

Carter's Charges

Cuba is estimated to have about 20,000 troops in Angola supporting the Government of President Agostinho Neto.

Mr. Carter said on May 25 in Chicago that Angola had to bear a heavy responsibility for the Katangan attack. "It is a heavy responsibility," he said.

He also said that Cuba had known the Katangan plans to invade and only did nothing to restrain them from crossing the border," Mr. Carter said. "We also know that the Cubans have

played a key role in training and equipping the Katangans who attacked."

The next day, Mr. McGovern, who had been told the opposite by Cuban officials, called for an inquiry to resolve the discrepancies.

One member of Congress said that the CIA had told him that Katangan prisoners said they were trained by the Cubans. But when he asked who questioned the Katangans, he said he was told it was done by Zairian forces. The Congressman said, "This was hardly a reliable source."

In part because of the alleged Cuban involvement in Zaire, the Administration has shifted French and Belgian forces to Shaba Province to repel the invaders from the French-speaking African forces to Zaire.

The United States Air Force had been ordered to 25 shift missions beyond the 30 originally approved for the current operation.

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